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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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In This Issue

Grievance stricken: The University Senate is debating the language of revised grievance guidelines. **For this story, see page 3.**



Mardi Gras madness takes over St. Louis starting in Soudard Saturday morning. For a story, pictures and other cool stuff about this pre-Spring celebration from the South, **see our story on page 3.**

Way-ans out of control: The youngest Wayans brother has released his recent endeavor. **See page 6.**



Editorial: War with Iraq looms large but no clear policy has emerged to justify such action. **See page 4.**

News From All Over

UC-Berkeley prof argues for pre-glacial settlement in Americas

BERKELEY, CALIF. (U-WIRE) — A UC Berkeley professor has found evidence that the first humans to inhabit America may have come before the Ice Age, much earlier than previous studies have concluded.

Johanna Nichols, a linguist and professor of Slavic studies, also found that, contrary to common belief, the Americas were populated from the south.

Nichols presented her findings at the American Association for the Advancement of Science conference in Philadelphia on Monday. She integrated archaeological findings with her own linguistic research to reach the conclusion that America's first inhabitants migrated to the continent before the glacial period.

Nichols' belief stems from the recent archaeological discovery of the Monte Verde site in Chile, which archaeologists have found to be 12,500 years old. Nichols estimated that if the Monte Verde site was first inhabited 12,500 years ago, it took Siberians 7,000 years to get there from the Asian continent — which would place the first migrants in the Americas during the peak of the Ice Age, at least 19,500 years ago.

Bernice Ng
Daily Californian

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The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

Nursing crisis forces cuts in faculty

Nine non-regular instructors will lose contracts in August

BY DOUG HARRISON
staff writer

Nine faculty members will not have their contracts renewed in August under a plan to balance the budget of the School of Nursing, administrators said Tuesday.

Jerry Durham, dean of the School of Nursing, and Jack Nelson, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, announced Monday that contracts of the nine non-regular instructors would not be renewed when they expired Aug. 1.

"This is a painful setback because it affects individuals' lives," Durham said Friday. "But we will survive."

Durham outlined "broad" criteria used to select the faculty whose contracts would not be renewed. In a letter to faculty Monday, Durham wrote that selections were made based on the "extent to which the existing faculty... depends on present course offerings that each faculty member is qualified by education and experience to teach," and the extent

"I don't have to work, but I'd like to be the one to decide when I retire rather than being thrown out on my ear."

—June Hertell
nursing instructor

to which "the college has committed to providing classes or programs taught by [existing] faculty" or that students need to proceed through their degree program.

"We also used more specific criteria to evaluate each case individually," Durham said.

Education and experience were important, according to Durham. The college was "concerned" about losing faculty with doctoral preparation that allows them to teach "across all lines" — undergraduate and graduate courses.

Durham refused to comment on the case of Georgia Urban, clinical assistant professor, who reportedly has completed all but her dissertation toward a doctoral degree. Urban was among the nine whose contracts won't be renewed.

Some faculty members have expressed dismay at the choice of instructors or professors who will be let go, citing at least one faculty member who was not among the nine but has no credits toward a Ph.D.

"One would feel you were putting yourself in a more secure position by seeking a terminal degree," said Virginia Drake, assistant professor of nursing.

Durham also refused to comment on Carlotta Wilder, a widow with several children still at home, who will also not receive a contract offer in August.

June Hertell, 65, is on the list as well. She is one year from eligibility for full retirement

see CUTS, page 10

Nursing by the Numbers

Enrollment by credit hours*

Projected total enrollment of SS '97, FS '97, WS '98 and JU '98	Actual total enrollment of SS '97, FS '97, WS '98 and JU '98
7,419	5,754

Enrollment by students

Fall semester '97

BSN 4-year	379
MSN	282
BSN post-licensure	145
Ph.D.	20
Post MSN	9

Faculty ratio 1996-97

44 Full-time	48 Part-time
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*does not include A&S hours

Student Government Assembly searches for official constitution

Controversial motion is defeated despite constitutional weakness

BY DAVID BAUGHER
staff writer

A resolution which would have set aside the decisions of the Student Activities Budget Committee was defeated at Wednesday's Student Government Association meeting.

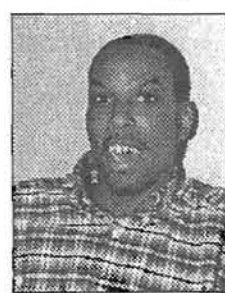
The resolution, introduced by representative Steve Wolfe, stated that since the members of the committee had not been approved by the SGA assembly as required in the SGA constitution, "any decisions already made by the SABC regarding restrictions on student groups funding are null and void."

Sharone Hopkins, president of the University Program Board and the Associated Black Collegians, spoke in favor of the resolution.

"[The constitution] says that [the committee] has to be approved by Jim Avery and the vice president and [the assembly] as a whole," Hopkins said. "After looking through the minutes we found no such recommendation."

ABC, UPB and several other organizations were initially denied direct funding from student activities fees because officials said they did not send representatives to mandatory budget workshops held last year. Hopkins has said that extenuating circumstances prevented him and others from attending the workshops but that he has conducted such workshops in the past and is fully aware of the budget process. Appeals filed for both ABC and UPB were denied by SABC. The committee decided instead to fund UPB through the Office of Student Activities while ABC will be funded through the African-American Leadership Council.

SGA President Jim Avery called the resolution "a waste of the assembly's time" since it was based on a constitution that was never officially accepted as the SGA's governing document. Avery said that after researching the issue he found that the constitutional provision requiring approval



Sharone Hopkins



Robert Herman tells SGA representatives the University of Missouri to make it "follow the laws everyone else does."

of the SABC was part of a revision proposed in 1993 by then-President Andy Masters. The proposal was never submitted to the chancellor for approval, Avery said.

"For whatever reason, Andy Masters did not resubmit the proposed

see MOTION, page 8

Local attorney drums up SGA support for suit against University

BY MARY LINDSLEY
staff writer

The attorney representing two UM students in a tuition-related lawsuit against the University system spoke at Wednesday's Student Government Association meeting to encourage student involvement in the issue.

Robert Herman, an attorney with the local law firm of Schwartz, Herman and Davidson, filed a class-action lawsuit last month on behalf of two UM students, claiming that the educational fees the University charges are actually tuition, something that is prohibited by state law. He said he learned of the statute through his involvement in another case against the UM System.

Herman is also representing the Ku Klux Klan in a lawsuit over campus radio station KWMU's refusal to air the Klan's advertisements.

Herman showed the statute to the assembly, along with regulations passed by the Board of Curators in 1977 that allow the UM System to charge for a variety of fees, including "incidental fees," but forbids the collection of tuition. Herman also used a dictionary definition to liken the incidental fees charged by the University to tuition.

"The current position of the University is that they are not charging you tuition," Herman said. "It sure feels like tuition, doesn't it? Nobody's being fooled here, right?"

Herman explained that the lawsuit, filed Jan. 30, asks the court to rule that the University is charging tuition, to forbid it from doing so and to issue refunds to students. He also encouraged students to take a proactive stance on the issue.

"A lawsuit alone is not going to be enough," Herman said. "This is a political creature; this is a very large political crea-

see SUIT, page 8

Black Women to be focus of special feature

BY KRIS NORMAN
special to The Current

Beginning Wednesday, February 25, Women's History Month begins at UM-St. Louis.

Even though Women's History Month is not until March, the Women's Center, at 211 Clark Hall, is starting it early. They will be hosting a series of events.

The first event, "Black Women in History," will be held on Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. in the Women's Center. Leslie Brown, of the UM-St. Louis history department, is the special speaker for this event. She will discuss the important role of Black women in American History.

"When Love Hurts" is the following event, at 7 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Auditorium. Donna Ferrato, an award

see FOCUS, page 3

Food services manager caught with handgun

BY BILL ROLFES
staff writer

A dispute between a food service manager and a food service worker led to the confiscation of a handgun Feb. 13, campus police said.

According to Captain James Smalley, assistant director of University Police, the worker arrived late for work, which spurred the argument between his manager and him.

Police would not release the identity of either the manager or employee.

"The manager alleged that the employee said that he would punch some people out and that he would start with the manager,"

"We made the manager aware that we were applying for warrants... it is a fairly serious crime."

—James Smalley
Police captain

Smalley said. "He would punch the manger first."

"The manager told the employee to clock out and go home."

The manager then, apparently, left the kitchen area and went out to his car where

he allegedly kept the gun, police said.

During the argument in the kitchen, another food service worker called campus police. Smalley said police sent two cars to the scene. A police officer witnessed the manager in the parking lot near the University Center loading dock putting the gun in his belt.

"One of the University police officers saw the person identified as the manager put the gun in the small of his back after he had retrieved it from his car," Smalley said. "Apparently he was unaware that the officer saw him."

Smalley said the police officer

see GUN, page 3

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board: The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations and University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all submissions be posted at least two weeks prior to the event. Send submissions to: Todd Appel, 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis MO 63121 or fax 516-6811. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Monday, Feb. 23

• **The Harlem Renaissance** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in 126 J.C. Penney. This 2 hour program includes Ron Himes, director, St. Louis Black Repertory Company, who will discuss the Company's current production of *Blues for an Alabama Sky*; Tommy Lott, professor of philosophy, UM-St. Louis, who will present "Harlem Renaissance Negritude," an analysis of Alain Locke's theory of art; Robert Ray, associate professor of music, UM-St. Louis, and members of the In Unison Chorus to perform vocal music from the Harlem Renaissance; and Bill Richardson, assistant professor of music, UM-St. Louis, on instrumental music of this period. Sponsored by the Center for the Humanities. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

• **"A Door Opens: From Collaboration to Self-Direction** in the Life of a Senior Woman Anthropologist" Edith Turner will speak from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in 1312 Tower. Co-sponsored by the Center for the Humanities and the Center for International Studies. Contact: 5699.

• **Safe Spring Break MOCKTAIL PARTY** sponsored by the Horizons Peer Educators in the U-Center Lobby from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact: Horizons, 5711.

• **Chemistry Club Meeting.** The first one will be at 12 p.m. and the second one will be at 1 p.m. Both will be in 451 Benton Hall. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. Contact: Martin, 721-6879.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

• **Introduction to Weight Training:** Learn how to use the Fitness Center and weight room to achieve the goals you desire. Fee \$5.00. Contact: Rec

Sports, 5326.

• **Student Social Work Association Meeting** at 4 p.m. in the Lucas Hall Evening College Conference Room on the third floor. Contact: Barb Collasso, 5105.

• **One-hour Rec Sports Table Tennis Clinic for Beginners** will be held at 12:00 p.m. in 221 Mark Twain. Contact: Rec Sports, 5326.

• **The Keeper** a Joe Brewster Film will be showing from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in 101 J.C. Penney. This presentation is co-sponsored by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, the Public Policy Research Centers, The Office of Equal Opportunity, and the Department of Philosophy. This event is free and open to the public. Contact: Karen Lucas, 5699.

• **Safe Spring Break Information Table.** Sign up to win two free round-trip tickets to anywhere in the continental U.S. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the U-Center Lobby. Contact: Horizons Peer Educators, 5711.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

• **The Long Riders** part of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Film Series at 10 p.m. in the U-Meadows Clubhouse. Free Admission with a UM-St. Louis ID. Contact: Student Activities, 5291.

• **Healthy Eating: the Key to Successful Weight Management.** Counseling Services and University Health Services will sponsor information tables and eating disorder screening tests at the University Center Lobby, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Contact: 5711.

• **Black Women in History.** Professor Leslie Brown discusses Black women

in American history from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Women's Center 211/212 Clark Hall. Contact: The Women's Center, 5380.

• **Ecumenical Service of Ashes** at 12:05 p.m. in 72 J.C. Penney. All are invited. Contact: Dennis Chitwood, Director of Campus Ministry, 7425.

• **Safe Spring Break Information Table.** Sign up to win two free round-trip tickets to anywhere in the continental U.S. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the U-Center Lobby. Contact: Horizons Peer Educators, 5711.

Thursday, Feb. 26

• **Body Images/Eating Disorders—** Lecture and film by Tammy Cook of St. John's Mercy Behavioral Services from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. in 201 SSB. Contact: Nan Sweet, 6383 or Deborah Bowman, 5581.

• **The Long Riders** part of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen Film Series at 10 a.m. in the U-Center Lounge. Free Admission with a UM-St. Louis ID. Contact: Student Activities, 5291.

• **Healthy Eating: the Key to Successful Weight Management.** Counseling Services and University Health Services will sponsor information tables and eating disorder screening tests at South Campus, Marillac Lobby, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Contact: 5711.

• **"Game Night"** at the St. Jane Center from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Play games and have a free dinner with families in the area. Contact: Betty, 385-3455.

• **"Life in the Spirit Seminar"** at 7 p.m. in the Newman House at 8200 Natural Bridge Road. Contact: Betty, 385-3455.

Safe Spring Break Information Table.

Sign up to win two free round-trip tickets to anywhere in the continental U.S. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the U-Center Lobby. Contact: Horizons Peer Educators, 5711.

Friday, Feb. 27

• **Physics Colloquium "Broken Symmetry in Liquid Helium"** given by Professor Fred Ristig from the University of Cologne, Germany and Washington University, St. Louis. It will be held at 3:00 p.m. in 328 Benton Hall preceded by coffee at 2:30 p.m. in 516 Benton Hall. Sponsored by the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Safe Spring Break Information Table.

Sign up to win two free round-trip tickets to anywhere in the continental U.S. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the U-Center Lobby. Contact: Horizons Peer Educators, 5711.

Saturday, Feb. 28

• **Honor's College Reunion.** Pierre Laclède Honors College alumni have scheduled their first reunion. The event will be held at the Honors College at 6 p.m. and will mark the beginning of the Pierre Laclède Honors College Alumni Chapter. Contact: 6453 to RSVP.

Monday, Mar. 9

• **The Louvre: An Architectural History—** A Slide Talk. Jeanne Morgan Zarruchi, associate professor of foreign languages and literatures and of art and history, will discuss the growth of the great French palace from a watchtower to a world-famous symbol of empire.

• **Biological Society Meeting** at 1:30 p.m. in 115 Benton Hall. Contact: 6438.

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Saturday

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The date was changed from May 17 because of the National Hockey League Schedule.

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Candidates for graduation will receive detailed information in the mail at the end of March.

For further information contact the Office of Special Events at **516-5442**.

More News

David Baugher, news editor
phone: 516-5174 fax: 516-6811
e-mail: current@jinx.umsi.edu

Grievance guidelines will get revision from Senate

BY MARY LINDSLEY
staff writer

A University Senate committee is moving forward with plans to make changes to the wording of the University's grade grievance procedure.

David Ganz, associate dean of the school of business and chairperson of Senate's Curriculum and Instruction Committee, presented a first draft of the proposed changes for Senate members to review at last Tuesday's meeting.

Ganz said the language in the current policy lacked clarity as to who has authority to change a grade when a student files a grievance.

"Our document seems to lack language that disallows anyone from changing the grade of an instructor without due cause," Ganz said.

The present policy establishes a tier system for students who feel they've received an improper grade to follow. If the student is unable to resolve the matter with the instructor, he or she may make appeals to the department chairperson, the dean of the college or school, the vice chancellor, and

Senators have yet to agree on language of changes

finally, the chancellor.

The changes proposed by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee include the addition of the phrase, "No one may substitute personal judgement for that of the instructor in regard to the quality of the student's work." Grades may be changed if there is clear evidence of "arbitrary and capricious conduct" by an instructor, or if mathematical errors have been made in calculating the grade.

Ganz also said the policy is worded incorrectly in the University Bulletin, stating that the appeals process goes directly from the dean to the chancellor without mention of the vice chancellor. The policy appears correctly in the student handbook.

Several faculty members at the meeting suggested that the proposed wording of the policy is still unclear.

"This needs to make very clear who has the authority to change grades in two cases: when the instructor is still on the faculty here and when the

instructor is [no longer] on the faculty here," said Joseph Martinich, a school of business professor. "Unless that's made clear, I think there have been and will continue to be either abuses or the perception of abuses by faculty members about the system."

Other Senate members, including Martinich, noted that the policy does not define what a grade change is, citing instances when students receive F's that are later changed to Excused or Y grades.

Chancellor Blanche Touhill, who was in attendance at the meeting, commented that she has changed only two grades for students since becoming chancellor eight years ago.

Ganz said the proposal is still in the initial stages of being developed and that the committee plans to have a formal procedure ready for a vote at the March Senate meeting.

"Maybe what I'm hearing is that we need to address it much more fully than we have," Ganz said. □

African-American leader calls for unity and pride in heritage

BY RHASHAD PITTMAN
special to the Current

Geronimo Pratt (now Geronimo Ji Jaga) emphasized black pride to an energetic crowd at the J.C. Penney auditorium on Feb. 15.

"Be proud that your ancestors survived the worst holocaust of all time," Pratt said.

After being falsely accused of murder and spending 27 years in prison, the former Black Panther Party defense minister focused on the struggle for self-improvement that lies ahead for the black community.

"If we survived slavery, then we can survive crack... we have the brain power to lead the entire world," Pratt said.

Pratt recognized the fact that there are some 50 million blacks in the United States alone which produce annually \$600 billion. Considering these statistics, according to Pratt blacks of the United States should consider itself a nation. He stressed the importance of freedom and liberty.

"All I care about is liberating our nation," Pratt said. "It should be a state of emergency."

Pratt went on to talk about prison life and how these profitable prisons are destroying the community.

"We have to tear these prisons down," Pratt said. "It's a shame the way they're throwing our youth away."

Pratt's perspective on leadership of blacks is that there is not any one leader but that there's multi-leadership among blacks.

"There is no more Malcolm," Pratt states.

With the efforts of attorney Johnnie Cochran, Pratt was re-tried and pronounced innocent of the crime that he went to prison for. After spending decades incarcerated he felt overwhelmed to be free. But shortly after taking a breath of freedom he declares that there are still many political prisoners incarcerated today.

Pratt is a native of Louisiana, not only does he have a background in revolutionary activities but he also has a military background. He is a Vietnam veteran. During his imprisonment Pratt appealed the accusation 16 times. He currently has an e-mail address and can be reached at <ekpe@aol.com>. □

Up on the House Top



Daniel Hazelton/The Current

Roofers continue to repair roofs on campus.

According to Noel Bath, Manager for Campus Planning and Construction, it will only be going on for a few more months.

"The roofs have reached their age limit," Bath said. "They are in need of routine replacement."

They repair the roofs that need the most work. They have repaired the roofs of Clark Hall, the Medical

North Building and also the Regional Park Building. The finale roofing project for this semester is The Thomas Jefferson Library, in which construction is underway.

Bath said he did not expect any tuition increases due to the repairs.

"Since we set aside so much money aside for maintenance each year, the students' cost is nothing," Bath said.

-Kris Norman

FOCUS, from page 1

winning photojournalist, and author, will present her special multimedia program about domestic abuse.

Then on March 18, from noon to 2 p.m., "Raising Face: A Menstrual Journey," will be held in the

women's center. Wendy Surinsky is the guest speaker, and she will share her special documentary. Their final event that the women's center will present, is entitled "Positive Strategies for Healthy Relationships." This event will be held on March 24, from noon to 1 p.m. Jolene Understall of the Women's Self-Help Center will discuss the true meaning of a healthy relationship. □

The Current Newswire

Counseling Services and University Health Services will sponsor information tables and eating disorder screening tests in the University Center lobby from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and in the Marillac Hall lobby from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday. Call 5711 for more information.

Maj. Michael Anderson, the first African-American to spend time aboard the Mir space station, will be the guest speaker at the Annual Scholarship Dinner, sponsored by the African-American Chapter of the UM-St. Louis Alumni Association. The event will begin at 6 p.m., Mar. 7 with a silent auction. Dinner is at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person. Call 5833.

Michael T. Elliott, assistant professor of marketing, will discuss "Are African-Americans Portrayed Differently in Culturally Specific Media Advertisements?" at noon Thursday, in Room 229 of the J.C. Penney Building. Call 5695 for more information.

Nominations for the 1998 Trailblazer Awards must be submitted to the Office of Equal Opportunity, Room 414 of Woods Hall, no later than Tuesday. Trailblazers are female students, faculty, staff and alumnae who were the first to occupy positions traditionally held by men, or who have made significant contributions to the University and/or the community. For nomination forms or more information call 5695.

The Speech and Debate Team, led by Tom Preston, director of forensics, captured four individual state championships in debate and speaking events at the state tournament sponsored by the Missouri Association of Forensic Activities Feb. 13-15 at Longview Community College in Lee's Summit, Mo. Fifteen teams competed in the tournament. UM-St. Louis finished fourth overall.

"Great Biblical Women of Color," a workshop and video conference, will be Tuesday, from 7-9 p.m. at the Southwestern Bell Telecommunity Center. James T. Elcock, Ph.D. will be guest speaker for the event. There is a \$2.00 donation for materials. Call 940-3908 for more information.

Contact Mary Lindsley at 516-5174 to submit items for Newswire

GUN, from page 1

approached the manager and asked him to turn over the gun. The manager willingly handed the gun to the officer.

The police did not make any arrests, Smalley said.

"No one was formally arrested, but what we did was we made the manager aware that we were applying for warrants," Smalley said. "We were going to present the case to the St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office and let them decide whether they were going to issue warrants."

Smalley said possession of a firearm is a felony.

"It is a fairly serious crime," Smalley said. It would have been even more serious if he had actually flourished it on somebody — had actually pointed it at some-

body — but it didn't escalate to that point."

The manager told police that he had a permit for the gun, police could not confirm why the food services manager would have had the gun in his car.

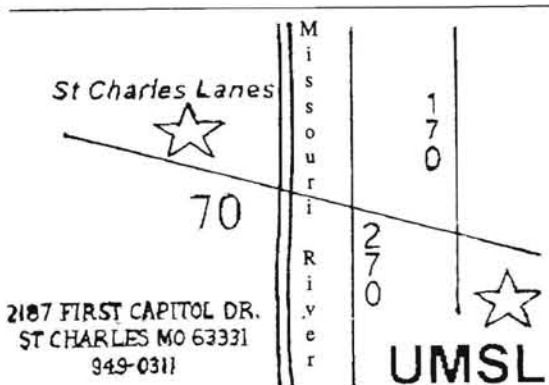
Smalley said, however, that police officers, security guards and couriers (people who carry money to banks) are allowed to carry firearms in their cars; and they must have a licence to do so.

Ron Medley, district supervisor for Food Service Consultants, said he could not comment on the actions of the manager or the worker.

Another worker who had witnessed the argument told police that the food service worker had been warned previously for repeated lateness, absenteeism and insubordination. □

David Baugher contributed information for this article.

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During Spring Break**

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Thursday, March 5, 1998

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Friday, March 6, 1998

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editorial page editor

Wendy Verhoff
community relations director

"Our Opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the editorial board

How to Respond

Your response is an important part of the weekly debate on this page. Letters should be brief and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity, length and grammar. All letters must be signed and include a daytime telephone number.

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OUR OPINION

Saddam Hussein: A ticking time bomb

The Issue:

With Saddam Hussein in power, the threat of military actions between the United States and Iraq will never go away.

We Suggest:

The United States must act soon, but hopefully President Clinton will consider alternatives to the mass carpet bombing of Iraq.

So what do you think?

Let us hear from you on this or any issue in a letter to the editor.

Given the number of military-age students at UM-St. Louis, along with the many active-duty and reserve personnel who also study here, the proposed renewal of hostilities in Iraq threatens to affect this campus. The question of whether or not to support such action demands attention.

This decision hinges on several essential considerations. First, proponents of any use of force should put forward clearly articulated and attainable goals. As yet, the president has failed to do so.

Clinton maintains air strikes are needed to "substantially reduce or delay" Saddam's development of chemical and biological weapons, postponing the day when he can unleash them on the world.

At present, however, no effective means exist to evaluate the progress of a "delaying" operation, casting doubt on the prospect of achieving his goal successfully. Pentagon observers have already projected difficulties in the area of "bomb damage assessment." No inspectors will have access to bombed sites to determine whether weapons of mass destruction are actually destroyed.

Moreover, the location of many stockpiles will also remain unknown to U.S. officials, making the direction of so-called "smart weapons" problematic. While certain sophisticated bombs can be set to explode on a predetermined floor within a structure and leave surrounding buildings intact, they become less effective when programmers lack complete intelligence and cannot determine which building to hit.

Even worse, the U.S. House of Representatives' Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare

believes Iraq has already transferred weapons to Sudan, placing them beyond the reach of any U.N. attack.

Thus, when American and civilian casualties begin to mount, no irrefutable evidence will prove they did not die in vain. In fact, according to intelligence, the weapons program will only continue in another country and most likely in Iraq itself. Both the president and his planners have already conceded the unlikelihood of completely eliminating Iraq's arsenal, or Saddam, through a military campaign, and Clinton has warned that strikes might have to be repeated indefinitely.

Apart from the scant feasibility of Clinton's plan, it also fails to meet a second, equally important criteria. Have all other options been pursued?

Russia has accused the U.S. of assuming an "uncompromising" position, and Boris Yeltsin promises that an American attack "will mean a world war." Turkey, France, China and Japan have also refused to endorse a military option. Even Saudi Arabia, one of America's closest allies in the region, has refused to allow U.S. planes to use bases within its borders.

The Clinton administration has thus failed to meet both criteria for initiating military action. It should consider instead a number of options which have already been suggested, such as a naval blockade to counter Saddam's oil smuggling. Other observers have suggested a gradual lifting of sanctions, in essence the use of honey instead of brine to win inspections.

Given the potential human cost of each explosion, no alternatives should be overlooked. □

Senate candidates have talked the talk

Jim Avery, Student Government Association president, announced in Wednesday's meeting that 31 students are vying for the 25 student positions of the University Senate. A few weeks ago, Avery pledged that he would get 25 people to run for the senate seats.

He and the 31 students who are willing to serve on the senate are to be commended, since the 25 positions never have been filled completely. Traditionally, we the students have snuffed the opportunity to sit on the senate, and this year has been no different.

A whopping 12 students ran for the senate.

Fortunately, with the unusually high number of candidates, we will not have to rest all of our confidence in the hands of a few students next year.

We only hope that these 31 students are serious about sitting on the senate. If chosen, it requires time, commitment and responsibility to accurately represent 15,000 students. It is easy for them to say they want to be part of the senate.

On a campus where apathy flows like a river, cynicism comes easy and it is difficult to take students at their word when they say they will take a stand.

We hope these 31 candidates will prove our cynicism invalid. We hope they are ready to walk the walk. □

A chinchilla farm can't be far off for SGA

I'm thinking of starting a chinchilla farm in my garage. Though I haven't attracted too many interested investors, I'm sure plenty of folks will want to board my fur-laden bandwagon as soon as I pitch the entrepreneurial wave of the future to the Student Government Association assembly.

That's right. The way I figure it, if UPS' employment crisis last year was worth the assembly's time and two different presentations this year from partisan interest groups (a.k.a. minions of the faculty) with opposing viewpoints about the proposed Performing Arts center can get on the agenda, I think my chinchilla farm ought to be just about as germane.

Indeed it seems there are few prerequisites to get on the SGA agenda beyond a pulse and some self-serving special interest. One need only convince who? ... the SGA president? ... the executive committee? that his or her pet cause or project is a good thing and viola, SGA representatives, who are under a compulsory attendance policy, are forced to endure relatively unmitigated self-promotion for as long as the speaker wishes to talk. Last week, though, SGA's intelligence was insulted beyond any previous degree when president Jim Avery not only placed on the agenda but also endorsed Bob Herman. The Clayton attorney from the firm of Schister, Schister and Slicktalk took time out from representing the Ku Klux Klan in its frivolous bit of litigation against the University to share some dumbed down sophistry (Hermanuetics, I call it) with SGA: University students should support the other suit he has going against the UM System for the high crime of (gasp) expecting students to pay for their education. Fortunately, the assembly was a bit more critical than its president, who, like a lemming to the sea, wholly embraced Hermanuetics. There are, Herman would have us believe, at least two good reasons to support his class action suit. First, the law says.

Well, not exactly.

"The law" Herman cites was adopted in 1867, around which time we were, among other things, buying and selling human beings, denying women the right to vote and convincing one another that Native Americans had inhabited "our" land. Second, to support Hermanuetics is to "take the moral high ground." His words. That's an odd place to end up for a bottom-feeder like Herman who is not exactly firmly planted on the rock of morality by representing the KKK.

In Mr. Herman's world, moral conviction seems to exist only insofar as it fits into his opening and closing remarks. He wasted no time reminding SGA representatives that UM denied minorities access to the University 35 years ago (an ancillary reason to join him), but he conveniently omitted his present advocacy of race-bating, hate-mongers who would have your campus radio station air incendiary garbage about Aryan Pride and Christian values.

But me no buts about the autonomy of separate litigation or the first amendment rights that transcend ethics or values. I'd like to know why SGA representatives must be forced to listen to clap and clatter from this grandstanding dog and pony show? If the powers-that-wish-they-were in SGA truly believe an assembly meeting is the proper place to stage the first live performance of the G. Gordon Liddy Show meets Rush Limbaugh, maybe the executive committee would like to hear about my chinchilla farm. □



DOUG HARRISON
editor in chief

GUEST COMMENTARY

Why should I go Greek?

When I came to the UM-St. Louis campus a little over two years ago, I thought about joining a fraternity. I had second thoughts about joining, but I checked them out. I looked at all three fraternities on campus to see what they had to offer, and my views quickly changed.

Everyone looks at fraternities and sororities and they think that all we do is party. Well, they are wrong.

Yes, we enjoy throwing a great party on a Friday night, but we also have much more to offer.

Recognizing that while in college, much of a student's education, personal development and growth does not occur in the classroom or the formal educational program provided by the university or college, but in the community in which the student lives and works.

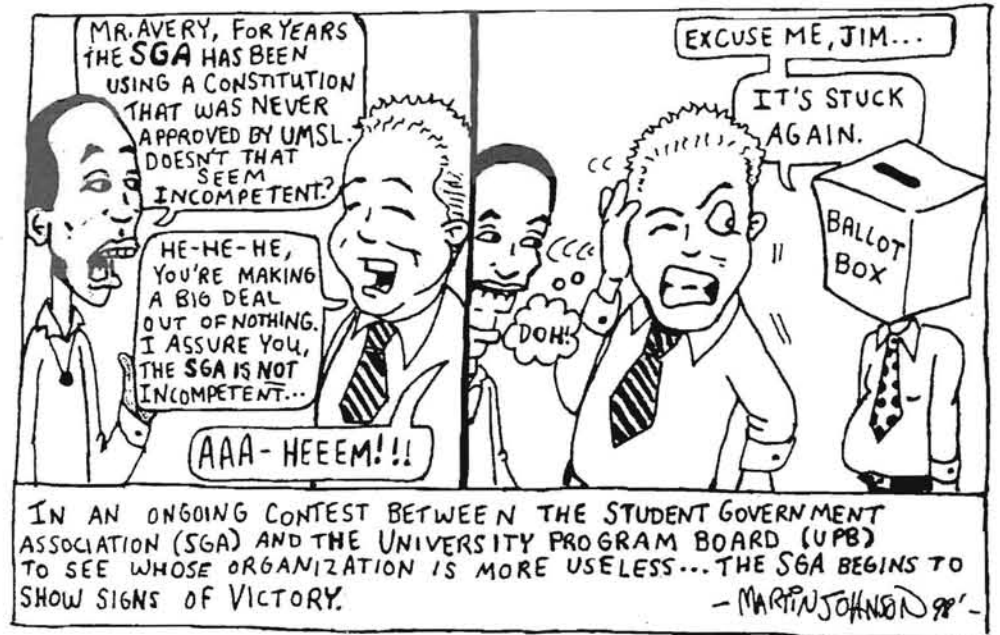
Fraternities and sororities are devoted to the highest ideals of citizenship, to positively influence the development of social skills and the formation of meaningful values and to create a healthy environment for its members' academic and personal growth.

Joining a fraternity or sorority is a great way to pass time while in college. It would get you more involved in school activities and community services in our area. Every fraternity and sorority has a philanthropy. Most of them deal with the less fortunate or children in the greater St. Louis area. For example, some of the events we coordinate are: Toys For Tots, Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon, dinners for elderly people during the holidays, projects with children, working with the deaf and sponsoring breast cancer awareness.

So, the next time you second guess a fraternity or sorority, you'll have a better concept as to why you should join a social fraternity or sorority on our campus. I would have to say that it is the best thing I have done. I joined Sigma Tau Gamma and I don't think college life could be better.

If you don't decide to join a Greek letter organization, you might want to consider joining another student organization as a way to pass some time while you work toward your future.

-Timothy James



READER RESPONSE

Managing editor's opinion proves he is 'embarrassment' to the University

I wish to comment on the recent article by Bill Rolfes titled "What's My Degree Going to Be Worth?"

I would concede to Mr. Rolfes that academia is guilty of many sins, but not necessarily the ones he notes. The higher educational landscape is now littered with courses that are hard to take seriously (e.g. the proliferating courses on "queer history"), whole majors which are a joke (e.g., "popular television," which is now offered by my alma mater, Syracuse University, so that students can now major in Beavis and Butthead), and faculty who give far more time and attention to their research than to the students who are paying their salaries.

Is there any wonder that virtual on-line universities, where students never have to step foot in a classroom or have direct personal contact with a teacher, are gaining in national acceptance, even though they are little more than glorified high-tech correspondence schools?

Having said all this, I still must confess that Mr. Rolfes displays a level of know-nothingism that is startling and, indeed is an embarrassment to the University.

I would only quote John Maynard Keynes, the father of the welfare state, whose ideas and theories contributed to the growth of the very public higher education opportunities Mr. Rolfes benefits from yet has contempt for: "Practical men who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences [have often in fact been heavily influenced by] some academic scribbler of a few years back."

It seems we "scribblers" at UM-St. Louis have failed you, Mr. Rolfes, since it is obvious you have learned nothing. Maybe you should try transferring to Syracuse and majoring in Beavis and Butthead, that seems your speed.

-J. Martin Rochester

Correction:

In Issue 913, the South Korean flag was incorrectly identified on page 5. We regret this error and any confusion it may have caused.

-the editor

Blood drive seeking a few good veins

For at least the past four years the Sigma Pi fraternity has sponsored blood drives at UM-St. Louis. They never seem to draw a flood of donations - at least the ones I have attended have not exactly seemed clogged with people wanting to give blood.

Other organizations on campus also sponsor blood drives throughout the year, like the American Optometric Student Association which held one on Oct. 21 and 22 last semester. According to statistics I received from the American Red Cross, the drive collected only 28 units of blood.

I know every single individual on this campus, whether student, faculty, staff or administrator, has two-days worth of things to do every day, but giving blood is worth making time for.

The blood drives in January and April last year drew 39 and 63 units respectively. You would think that with 15,000 students, 1,200 teaching and research staff and 1,200 administrative and support staff, UM-St. Louis would be able to drain a little more blood than that. If only 3 percent of everybody affiliated with this University would give blood, the Red Cross would get about 500 units.

The blood drive is always a two-day event. This year it will be on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Thursday from noon to 4 p.m., in room 75 of the J.C. Penney Building, and Sigma Pi is sponsoring it.

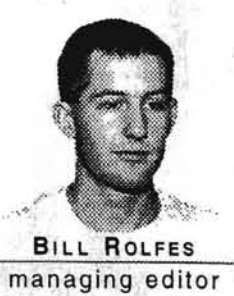
Kathryn Abodeely, from the Red Cross, told me that the number of donors from UM-St. Louis has fallen in recent years, while UM-Columbia has been breaking national blood drive records.

Unfortunately, this is yet another incident of our campus quivering in UM-Columbia's shadow. We can't even break 100 (except in April 1996 and October 1994).

Part of the problem is publicity. The only way I found out about the blood drive was through a postcard I received from the Red Cross on Thursday. (The Red Cross is always hitting me up for blood.) I hadn't seen any signs on campus.

Of course I may have been walking around campus with my head up my ass, but I usually notice blood drive signs. Maybe they will go up this week. But people on this campus are busy. They need to know a week ahead of time about an event so they can keep a space in their schedules open.

Joe Osborne, a member of Sigma Pi, told me there was a possibility that the Red Cross would not come to our campus this week if the fraternity did not get enough people to commit in advance to giving blood. I'm sure it would be a waste of the Red Cross' time to spend two days here and walk away with only 28 units of blood. □



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managing editor

Odds & Ends

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Stick It
In The Fridge

BECKY RICKARD
features editor

I'll admit it. I am a fair weather Olympic lover. Its not that I completely ignore the Winter Olympics, but rather that I don't understand some of the sports and people's attraction to them—like curling or the Super G/Slalom thingy. For some odd and unexplainable reason, I have been especially apathetic towards this year's Olympics. I had no idea that the Olympic gurus were allowing snowboarding events in this non-ESPN2 atmosphere (and it's been a few years!)—until the news broke about "Stoney the Canadian Snowboarder."

I wholeheartedly agree with the decision to let "Stoney" keep his gold medal. However, my agreement doesn't lie in the obvious facts: 1. Everybody knows marijuana isn't a strength enhancing drug; 2. One zillionth of an ounce doesn't prove that he is a "druggie" whether his encounter with marijuana was first or second hand or whether it was three weeks or ten months ago. My agreement lies in the only libertarian belief I hold. I believe in the legalization of drugs, not just marijuana but all drugs.

You may be throwing your hands in the air saying, "She's crazy!" Maybe I am but I still think drugs should be legalized.

I don't claim to know all the dangers of every drug. I'm a student not a doctor. I believe that if drugs were legalized, society would walk around in a giggling, strung-out, late-nite munchy, hallucinatory haze—at first. Yes, it would be sad to watch friends and family go through this exploratory phase. Crimes committed with this drugs haze may increase, lives may be senselessly lost and all hell would break loose. But, for those people who choose to use drugs responsibly, recreationally, medicinally and academically, the entertainment value would be priceless.

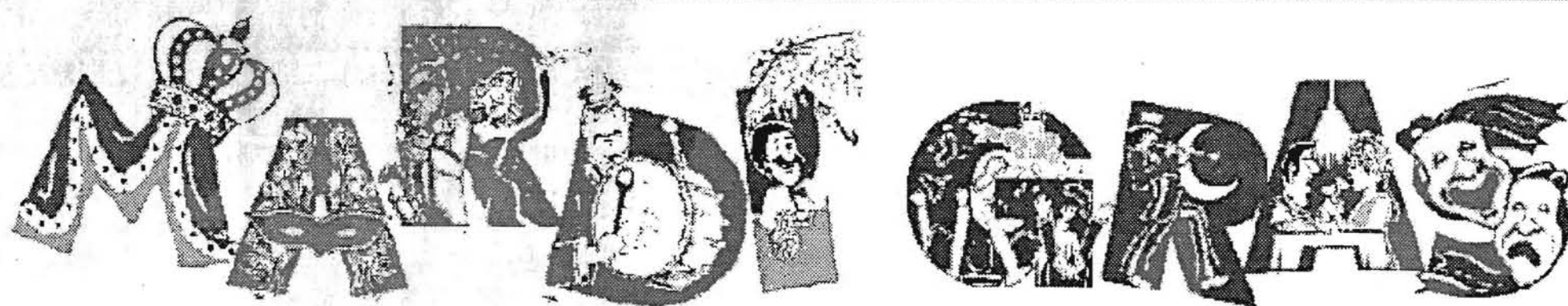
Think about it. Most drugs, in abused abundance, are harmful. Most kindergartners know this. If we legalize drugs, we remove much of the mystique behind getting high just to be adolescently rebellious. People who think that it is "cool" to use drugs because they are illegal are... STUPID! (For lack of a more appropriate word) Do we really want these people procreating, putting their "stupid" chromosomes in our gene pool? Instead, give them their "cool" drugs and let them commit self-genocide.

People that use drugs because they are "fun", i.e. recreational drug users, are closer to the mark. Responsible drug use can be fun. I'm not a crack head or a heroin junkie so I don't know what those particular highs feel like. I drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes and have, on occasion, smoked pot. I don't think I would go beyond this realm of drug use because I've heard and seen too many bad stories. Have you ever seen someone on a bad trip? It's one of the scariest things you can imagine. I can't understand shooting needles, especially dirty needles, in your arms to get high when there are so many dangers, the least of which is first time use leading to addiction.

I'm not naive and reckless. I have thought deeply about the legalization of drugs and the possible effects on society. I know there would be many adverse effects but protecting me from it will only make me want to experience it more. If I choose to try a drug I know can kill me, then let me commit my own suicide for being so stupid. In the long run, someone will learn from my mistakes.

Legalizing drugs can open many new uncharted territories. Imagine how much progress we can make in medicine, psychology, sociology and biology if wide spread drug use of a general population can be intelligently studied? I firmly believe in social Darwinism—survival of the fittest isn't a half-baked theory. I'd like to see how our population would evolve after drugs were legalized.

If we can put nuclear weapons in the hands of people like Saddam Hussein and Bill Clinton, why not put drugs in the hands of the people who have to deal with the daily headache these two characters create? □



BY AMY LOMBARDO
staff writer

Mardi Gras is one of the few times that people can let loose, get crazy and drink beyond their normal capacity without falling victim to a lot of criticism. It's become tradition in St. Louis to party hard through the week of Mardi Gras, however not all the participants know much about the

roots of the festival.

Most Catholics know that it marks the beginning of Lent, and that it presents them with an opportunity to indulge in the sins of the flesh before they must give them up for 40 days.

The Catholic Church designed the Gregorian calendar, which has fluctuating dates for all holidays except Christmas. Mardi Gras occurs 47 days before Easter, to account for the 40 days of Lent, plus 7 Sundays.

The history of Mardi Gras extends back to ancient times, and has been celebrated in Louisiana for nearly 300 years. French explorers landed near the Mississippi on March 3, which happened to be the date that France celebrated Mardi Gras, so they named their landing spot Pointe du Mardi Gras. To show their loyalty, the men got inebriated and partied the night away. A town was later founded down river, and named Nouvelle Orleans.

The official start of Mardi Gras is the second Friday before Fat Tuesday, although New Orleans has pre-season parades popping up as well. The length of the celebration is 12 days, during which there are nearly 70 parades. There have been nearly 2000 Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans since 1857.

Mardi Gras does not stipulate a general theme, instead, all of the parades develop an individual one. They have focused on such subjects as legends, children's stories, famous people, literature, history and mythology.

Greek, Roman and Egyptian myths have actually supplied a large portion of the krewes' names, with others coming from historical figures and places, and even neighborhoods on the parade's path.

In 1872, the official colors of Mardi Gras (purple, gold and green) were chosen by Rex, the King of Carnival. In 1892 he gave them all a specific meaning: purple stands for justice, gold for power and green for faith.

The total number of people involved in a parade can reach more than 3000 participants. It could include the captain, the king and queen, maids and dukes, riding members, band members, dance groups, posse members and clowns, not to mention the members of the krewe.

The tradition of tossing baubles off of the floats began in 1871, when a Santa Claus masker of the

some brief
history

Twelfth Night Revelers threw gifts to the crowd. This year, the Mystic Krewe of Olympia has selected a focus of Famous Lovers and Love Stories, where krewe members will dispense heart-shaped beads, red cups and moon pies to the masses. Every year the Budweiser Clydesdales accompany them.

In New Orleans, a tradition of inviting celebrities to join the fun has developed. Guests have included John Goodman, Dolly Parton, Bob Hope, Jackie Gleason, Kirk Douglas, the Beach Boys and Harry Connick, Jr.

Carnival clubs are non-profit organizations, often involved in charity work of some kind. They are financed by dues, fund-raisers, and the sale of krewe merchandise. Each year, the Mardi Gras party brings in about \$700 million.

New Orleans, without question, has the largest and most well-known celebration in the United States. St. Louis does have one of the best parties for Mardi Gras nationwide, however.

Lisa Baeres is an U.M.—St. Louis graduate who went to the parade on Saturday, February 21. She can attest to the huge crowd that attended the event.

"I walked for 45 minutes from a friend's party to the parade. There were probably fifty of us walking together from the party. There were so many people down in Soulard, too, it was almost too many people. But we had a lot of fun!" Baeres said.

The 1998 Soulard Mardi Gras Parade began at 2:00 PM led by Chuck Berry, a St. Louis native. More than 150 floats followed, equipped with plenty of live music, entertainment, and even more beads and baubles.

The hordes of people were festive, but made it nearly impossible to navigate through the streets. Kelly Williams, also an U.M.—St. Louis graduate, was surprised at how compressed the sidewalks were.

"At one point, we went about 10 feet without even walking. We were just being pushed with the crowd. My sister was pushed together so tightly between two people, her feet were lifted off the ground!" Williams said.

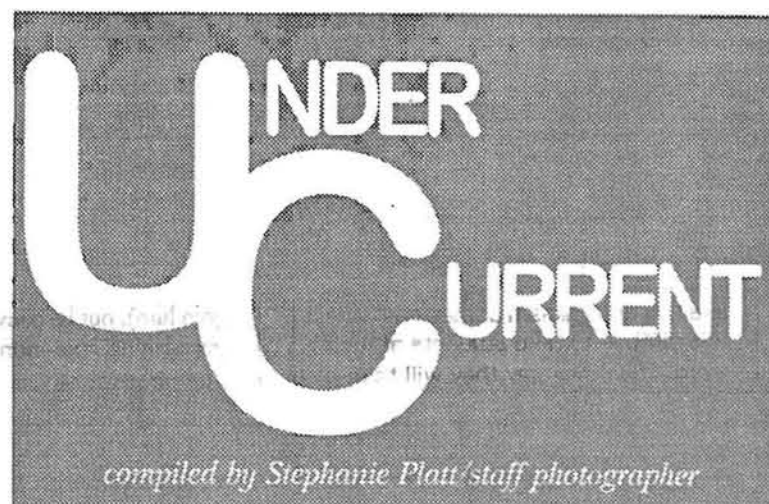
The end of the Mardi Gras celebration will take place in Soulard tomorrow, with the "Light Up the Night Fat Tuesday" parade beginning at 7 p.m. on 12th Street. The floats will have music and entertainment, and again, there will be beads and baubles for all. □

Most Catholics know that it marks the beginning of Lent, and that it presents them with an opportunity to indulge in the sins of the flesh before they must give them up for 40 days.



Daniel Hazelton/The Current

Two clowns enjoy themselves at Saturday Mardi Gras festivities in Soulard. Mardi Gras started Feb. 14 and runs through Tuesday.



compiled by Stephanie Platt/staff photographer

What is your fondest memory
of kindergarten?

"I had a crush on my teacher."

-Shaggy Fabij

junior/business administration



"Making fun of that guy that ate glue."

-Tim Peacock

frosh/psychology and mass comm

"Taking a nap."

-Kawonza Jones

second year/criminology



"Giving Jenny Packie a bloody nose on the playground."

-Schanda Tierney

junior/vocal music education

"Getting on the school bus for the first time."

-Kim A. Parker

senior/psychology



"My first peck on the cheek."

-Sherri C. Lacy

senior/business finance

Ghana comes alive in J.C. Penney

BY STEPHANIE PLATT AND BECKY RICKARD
staff writers

Last Wednesday afternoon, students were encouraged to see, touch, hear and even taste the different aspects of Ghana during the UM-St. Louis' Ghana Day celebrations. The event, sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity, brought a little bit of Ghana to the J.C. Penney building. It celebrated the "pioneer" students who were the first group to initiate the new exchange program, the Missouri Africa Program, between UM-St. Louis and the University of Ghana-Legon.

UM-St. Louis "pioneer" students, Sharone Hopkins, UPB president and business major; Vonzella Jackson, social work major; Michael Perkins, history major and Jacinta Watson, psychology and sociology major; shared their experiences from their travels in 1997 through anecdotes, clothing, art work and photographs. Visitors were encouraged to interact with the exchange program pioneers over an African lunch of Morgee Birami, a spicy chicken dish; Kdokithakia, peppermint herb vegetables and banana yam Roulade.

The Missouri Africa Program is the brainchild of Communications professor, Patricia Holmes. Holmes proposed a grant in 1991, after she realized that UM-St. Louis didn't have an exchange program with Africa. After researching a feasibility program and traveling to Africa, her proposal was accepted in 1992. With the help of political science professor and Director of



Stephanie Platt/The Current

Jacinta Watson, senior psychology major, sports traditional African clothes and is holding a bowl of African food.

International Studies, Joel Glassman, it took five years for the program to come to fruition.

"The Missouri Africa Program is a chance for students to learn about and appreciate different cultures," Holmes said. "Many students have not traveled outside the US or even the Midwest. Its a great accomplishment to travel over seas."

UM-St. Louis is not the only university to participate

see GHANA, page 8

**You read
The Current
and we'd like
to thank you**


The Current's own features editor will be in the Quad Tuesday 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday with FREE movie passes. Find her and the passes are yours. This week's movie is *Kissing a Fool*, starring David Schwimmer.

Tickets are courtesy of TCI Cable and its new half-hour entertainment show, EQ, hosted by FM 101.1 the River's Ken Williams and Dave Doerre, premiering this month on TCI channel 3 and Charter Cable channel 8.

Movie Reviews

Senseless is classic stupid comedy

Senseless
Rated: PG-13
Now Playing

 (out of 4)

I have admit I love comedies; not just funny ha ha comedies, but stupid comedies that have a lot of physical acting. *Senseless* fits this bill almost perfectly.

It has a basic plot we have seen hundreds of times before. It goes like this poor man works hard to get something which is given away to more fortunate people.

He is obviously the better of the two but the poor man is under privileged and at a huge disadvantage. The poor man of *Senseless* is Darryl Witherspoon (Marlon Wayans) and the rich kid is Scott Thorpe (David Spade).

Witherspoon is desperate for money. He will



Marlon Wayans stars in his newest comedy *Senseless*.

take any and all odd jobs to make money to pay his tuition at Stratford U. and to help his family out. He feels it necessary to help his mother and his siblings out when he can. The college is a sponsor to a job fair to the prestigious Smythe-Bates Company. It is an economic analyst firm that pays greatly. It definitely would help out Witherspoon and his family.

However, he is at a disadvantage because he is working so much he can not do all of the extracurricular activities that the Smythe-Bates people want.

Thorpe is the son of a banker and also does all

of the extra activities that this company is looking for in a junior analyst. The competition is fierce and the outcome is...

Wayans and Spade complement each other perfectly. *Senseless* is funny, witty and has tons of toilet humor. It definitely is a movie to add to the classic collection of stupid comedy.

Wayans adds his name to the likes of all of his brothers and also some of the greater names such as Spade. *Senseless* is extremely, and I mean extremely funny and deserves a watch.

-Matthew Regensburger

Palmetto: A mystery on the rocks, with a twist

Palmetto
Rated: R
Running Time: 1:52
Now Playing

Pack your bags, we're going to sunny Palmetto, Fla. I'll begin by saying that if I had to describe the plot in one word it would be "generic." However, there are enough twists and surprises to keep it interesting all the way through.

The film stars Woody Harrelson as Harry Barber (an oxymoron?), a journalist just released from prison after two years. (Testimony from another trial ended up proving him innocent, so you can imagine the bitterness after two years.)

Harry is coerced into participating in your basic "kidnapping of a rich old man's daughter for ransom scheme". The twist; the daughter in question and the rich old man's "wife" are orchestrating the whole thing. Apparently they are not happy with the "allowance" given to them and want a lump sum to play with. Now one would usually expect that everything that could go wrong does. Not so, in fact everything goes too well, and this is when things begin to twist and

turn. Just when you think you've got it all figured out, something else comes out of nowhere to completely confuse you. All in all, it's a pretty good entertaining movie, and I must add that Woody delivers probably the best one-liner I've heard in a long time. (Guys will fall out of their seat laughing, ladies will cringe!)

Elizabeth Shue delivers a fine performance as the wife, steaming up the screen with Woody, (well sort of, don't expect too much), while Gina Gershon also makes a good showing as Harry's faithful girlfriend, who eventually ends up in on it. Then again so does everybody else. Michael Rappaport (should be on the rising star list), gives a strong intertwining performance as well.

So who dunnit? Well... everyone is guilty of something aren't they? I, in general, would recommend seeing this film. It is incredibly simple, yet strangely entertaining the whole way through. It's a pretty enjoyable experience, although don't expect it to do as well as that other movie about that big boat that sinks.

-Bill Clifford

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Crossword Companion


ACROSS	DOWN
1 Some	1 Away
4 Person from Denmark	2 Before (poetic)
8 Kind of car (abbr.)	3 Sherlock's friend
12 Southern constellation	4 Boat
13 Reed instrument	5 Presidential nickname
14 Layer	6 Nay
15 Go to bed	7 Scary
17 Fink	8 Fall month (abbr.)
19 Preposition	9 Behold
20 Pig pen	10 Fruit
21 Male reference	11 Put away
22 Stitch	16 Follower (suf.)
23 Sneaker	18 Morning
25 Expression of surprise	21 Believes different than church
26 Leave	22 Sun
27 Own (Scot.)	23 Replied
28 Ban	24 Conceal
29 Under	25 Fish
32 Ego	26 Clot
33 Wary	28 Inlet
	29 Bread
	30 Spoken
	31 Need

35 Radium symbol	33 Bed
36 Lure	34 Dorsal
38 Can	37 Squawk
39 Skillet	39 A bad review (slang)
40 odds	41 Rumba
41 Noise	42 Dampen
42 Wale	43 Ore vein
43 Rule	44 Dry
45 Military command (abbr.)	45 Note on musical scale
46 Put	46 Gun
47 Either	48 Sneaky
48 Err	49 Poem
49 Canadian province	50 Small
52 Turn	
54 Zip	
56 Appendix	
57 Vortex	
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51 Eon
53 Announcement (abbr.)
55 Overdose (abbr.)

Answers on page 9

See page 5 for your chance to win FREE movie passes to the latest releases.



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Ken Dunkin, sports editor
phone: 871-2192 fax: 516-6811
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THE LATEST SCOOP



DAVE KINWORTHY
sports associate

People say I have a bad memory. I hardly ever remember important first times in my life, but I do recall certain events that will stick in my mind for a lifetime.

One of the most memorable moments in my life was seeing first baseman Mark McGwire suit up in a Cardinal uniform.

I had been a supporter of the Cardinals since I was a youngster, but since the disappearance of players like Bob Forsch, Tito Landrum and my favorite, Rex "The Wonder Dog" Hudler, the game had been missing something. But once this trade hit the airwaves, I immediately went and purchased a ticket to see the next home game.

The day had finally come. I went to Busch Stadium to see the mighty McGwire hit a home run. The stadium was a spectacle to behold. A sold out crowd with standing room only tickets available was quite a sight.

Not since the Cardinals played the Atlanta Braves in the National League Championship Series was the stadium buzzing like this.

During the game, McGwire hit the first National League homer of his career. It was a sight to see. The crowd went crazy with enthusiasm and gave McGwire a standing ovation. As he came out of the dugout to acknowledge the crowd, I knew then and there that this man was an athlete who cared.

After the Cardinals signed McGwire, he became a true fan favorite. McGwire exemplifies a true athlete dedicated to his sport. He goes out everyday and plays hard. This is a virtue which is lacking in many modern day athletes. He is one of the few players who plays up to what they should be paid.

With dedication and a love for the sport of baseball, McGwire has grown attached to the St. Louis community.

When he held a press conference to announce that he was donating one million dollars to an organization for abused kids, the media was envious. Here was this slugger that showed an emotional side and actually shed a tear about a topic that was close to his heart. It was quite an event.

McGwire will go down in my eyes as one of the best power hitters that has ever played the game.

With all of the many records, he showed the fans in St. Louis just what they meant to him. He could have decided to go back to California where he lives and play for the Anaheim Angels in the American League next year, but he was so overwhelmed by the support of the fans that he felt obligated to remain here.

Although the Cardinals were at a low point in the year — a sub-.500 record and realizing that the playoffs were out of the question — the fans still supported their team. The fans of St. Louis should be proud of themselves for once in their lives for the part that they played in keeping this slugger here in St. Louis.

The Cardinals organization sacrificed a lot of time and trouble in getting this famous first baseman here, and the fans kept him here. □

Dave Kinworthy's column appears every other week. Contact him by phone at 516-5174; by e-mail at s1019874@admiral.umsi.edu; or by mail at 7940 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63121

Rivermen romped on the road 100-74

BY JOE HARRIS
staff writer

At least you can say the Rivermen basketball team is consistent; it lost again. The men were walloped 100-74 by the Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles Thursday night.

The Screaming Eagles took a 51-35 lead into the half en route to the blowout victory.

However, the Rivermen showed signs of a pulse entering the second half. The men started with confidence on their first few possessions on offense and began to cut into the lead.

"We cut the lead to 13 points in the second half," head coach Rich Meckfessel said. "We had four or five good possessions, then we missed a layup and it led to a couple of easy scores."

The "easy scores" put the Rivermen away for good.

Adding insult to injury is that the Screaming Eagles outscored and out rebounded the Rivermen 34-9 and 14-6 in the post respectively.

The Rivermen turned the ball over 29 times in the game. It's a problem that has haunted the team all season. "They (Southern Indiana) have a good defense, but most of the turnovers were due to careless passes," Meckfessel said. "We need to take better care of the ball."

The Screaming Eagles also enjoyed a decisive free throw advantage going 19-30 from the line compared to the Rivermen's 8-18. Southern Indiana actually made more free throws than UM-St. Louis attempted.

Free throws, or the lack thereof, have plagued the Rivermen all year. The team is dead last in the Great Lakes Valley Conference in free throws attempted.

"The hardest part about free throws is getting fouled," Meckfessel said.

The loss drops the Rivermen to 6-19 overall and 2-14 in GLVC play.

Despite the loss, one of the few bright spots for the Rivermen is the improved play at guard. Kyle Bixler once again led the team with 23 points and Greg Ross chipped in 8 points and 4 assists.

"Ross has been our most improved player since the start of the season," Meckfessel said. "And Bixler's knocking down some shots."

Bixler had struggled earlier this season. "Against Kentucky Wesleyan we were out of the game and Bixler knocked some shots down with the pressure off," Meckfessel said. "That gave him some confidence. You can't make shots without confidence, but you can't get confidence if you don't make any shots."

Southern Indiana	51	49	100
UM-St. Louis	35	39	74

Southern Indiana	PT	FG	3FG	FT
Joel Thomas	10	4	0	2
Jeremy Pearson	7	3	1	0
Leighton Nash	15	6	0	3
Rod Gatson	26	9	6	2
Kevin Herdes	3	1	1	0
Ryan Kelley	8	2	1	3
Wayne Houston	19	5	0	9
John Bucher	2	1	0	0
Logan Graber	3	1	1	0
Tim Tooley	3	1	1	0
Brandon Grotguth	2	1	0	0
Vic Williams	2	1	0	0
Totals	100	35	11	19

UM-St. Louis	PT	FG	3FG	FT
Mike Harris	16	7	1	1
Jason Logsdon	9	4	0	1
Greg Ross	8	3	0	2
Kyle Bixler	23	8	7	0
Jeremiah Fouts	10	4	2	0
Terrell Alexander	8	2	0	4
Totals	74	28	10	8

Even though the dismal record indicates this season was a total wash, Meckfessel believes that the men are close to turning it around. "If we cut down on the turnovers by five per game, then we are a .500 team this year," Meckfessel said.

Meckfessel is confident that the guard play will continue to be strong next year. He also believes that the addition of the injured Jason Frillman and the red shirted Gene Stewart will improve the team's performance. □

Riverwomen on losing track toward end of season

Team misses out on chance to compete in conference tournament

BY DAVE KINWORTHY
staff writer

The Riverwomen basketball squad has now lost four games in a row as its record declined to 14-10, 7-10 in the GLVC.

UM-St. Louis played against Bellarmine University on Feb. 14 and lost 76-60.

The team started off slowly as the team was down at halftime 35-28.

Going into halftime, head coach Shelly Ethridge reminded the players about an important part of their defense.

"It was time to start playing some defense and boxing out," Ethridge said.

The women went into the second half optimistic, but were outscored 41-32.

Lindsay Brefeld led the squad in scoring with 15 points, while Melanie Marcy added 11.

One key note in this game was the intense defense that Bellarmine applied to UM-St. Louis. They held the talented trio of Brefeld, Marcy and Annette Brandy to a dismal 10 for 34 from the field. The team was also out-rebounded 50-34.

Bellarmine was led by guard Amy Siegel who scored 23 points.

Coach Ethridge commented about what a close game it would have been if Siegel could have been controlled.

"She is a really good ballplayer," Ethridge said. "If we could have



-Shelly Ethridge
head coach

No matter of the outcome, whether we make the tournament or not, I am extremely proud of the girls. They have really turned this program around.

contained her, it would have been a close game. Every game we have made somebody an All American."

Ethridge also pointed out that the team gained some vast knowledge from this game in particular.

"[The team] realized that they cannot wait until the second half to play," Ethridge said. "In the beginning, teams were not prepared for

us, but now they know our style of play. They realize now that everyone's got their number."

The Riverwomen then ventured on to take on the number one seed Southern Indiana on Feb. 19. The game remained close at halftime with the score 40-36 in favor of Southern Indiana. But Southern Indiana continued to pour it on in the second half and defeated UM-St. Louis 97-70.

The team was paced by Annette Brandy's 22 points and Krystal Logan added 12 of her own. Melanie Marcy also added 13 rebounds and scored 9 points in a losing effort.

The pivotal point came when the Riverwomen took on SIU-Edwardsville on Feb. 21 at home. A victory would guarantee UM-St. Louis a spot in the tournament, but if the Riverwomen lost, the team must hope that St. Joseph would lose its remaining two games.

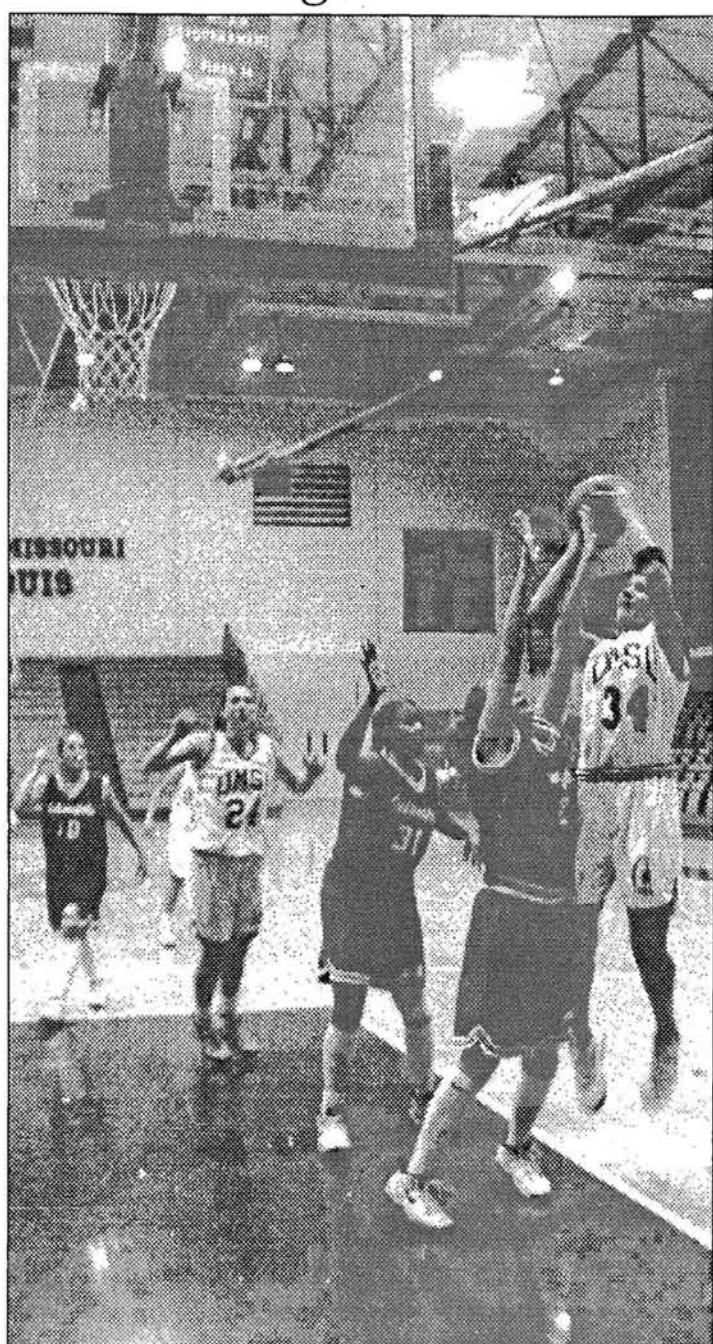
"We have to win one or St. Joseph's has to lose both," Ethridge said. "If this doesn't occur, it will come down to a flip of the coin."

Nevertheless, Ethridge remains proud of her team.

"No matter of the outcome, whether we make the tournament or not, I am extremely proud of the girls," Ethridge said. "They have really turned this program around."

The Riverwomen lost to SIU-Edwardsville 79-64, and St. Joseph's won its final two games, thus pushing UM-St. Louis out of the conference tournament. □

Lane Blockage



File photo

Center Melanie Marcy shoots over Indianapolis center Elizabeth Ramsey in a conference game at UM-St. Louis earlier this year. The Riverwomen did not advance to the GLVC tournament.

Sports Analysis

U.S. hockey team is big disappointment in Nagano

Do you believe in miracles? No! A miracle is what it would have taken for the United States' men's ice hockey team to leave Nagano with any pride. Unfortunately, all of Team USA's miracles were used up in 1980.

After a dismal 1-2 record in the preliminary round (which only mattered for seeding in the elimination medal round) Team USA's dreams of gold were abruptly halted by the Czech Republic and Dominik Hasek.

The 4-1 loss epitomized the U.S. experience in these Olympics. They couldn't finish on good chances, the defense was lackluster, and the goal tending was below average.

This from a team that was expected to compete with Canada for the gold. Instead they leave with nothing.

The scraping sound that may have woken you up around two o'clock in

the morning on Feb. 18 was the U.S. men scraping what was left of their pride off the ice with small putty knives.

The high expectations came from the US's stunning World Cup victory over Canada in 1996. In that series Brett Hull, Tony Amonte, and Mike Richter led the way as the US claimed hockey dominance for the first time since the miracle on ice.

As a result, Team USA went to Nagano beating their chests but came back just beat up — both physically and mentally.

After being eliminated, Team USA's Keith Tkachuk said, "This is embarrassing. It was a total waste of time." Unfortunately, he wasn't over reacting.

see OLYMPICS, page 8

Harry Caray: An icon for major league baseball announcing

Last Wednesday was a dark day in the sports world. Long time announcer Harry Caray passed away at age 77.

The sports world will never be the same again. Caray the WGN veteran made the game interesting if not funny. One thing is for sure — Caray loved baseball.

Caray well forever be remembered as a senile old fool who was more funny than informative. That is a sad way for the 40 plus year veteran of broadcasting to be remembered. He has spawned more jokes than Bill Clinton, and had more imitators than Elvis. Harry was an icon.

Harry was in the twilight of his career during the '90s. He wasn't as sharp as he had been in his prime. He didn't quite call the game as well as before. So what? He was a Chicago landmark and deservedly so.

Jack Buck called the Cardinals' games when they were horrible and winning wasn't in the cards. Then came the fabulous 1960s. Harry called Stan Musial's 3,000th hit. I never realized how great of an announcer he had been until KMOX began playing old clips of the games.

He was the best announcer I had heard. He had the flavor of Vin Scully and the opinionated style of Jack Buck. The man was excellent.

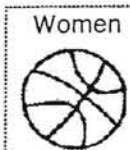
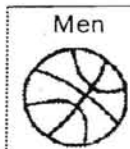
I will forever remember his commercials for Bud. His "I am a Cubs fan and a Bud man" commercials are some of my favorites of all time. I still regret that I didn't make it to Wrigley Field while Harry was doing his famous "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" routine. That is one of my biggest regrets in sports.

Harry was an icon and his voice and personality will be missed. No one will ever call a game like him again. They broke the mold with they made him. Thank goodness.

-Ken Dunkin

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Contact the Athletic Department for information about these and other events.



Tuesday

24

GLVC Tournament Quaterfinals TBA

GLVC Tournament Quaterfinals TBA

Friday

27

GLVC Tournament Semifinals at Kentucky Wesleyan TBA

GLVC Tournament Semifinals at Southern Indiana TBA

Saturday

28

GLVC Tournament Championship at Kentucky Wesleyan 7:30 p.m.

GLVC Tournament Championship at Southern Indiana 7:30 p.m.

Gateway of opportunity

Job Fair to bring employers, would-be employees together at Mark Twain

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
special to The Current

The focus of this year's Gateway to Careers Job Fair will be internships for college students and entry level positions for graduates.

The job fair will be held in the Mark Twain Building on March 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost of attending the fair is \$5 with pre-registration in the Career Services Office or \$10 at the door.

Last year 130 companies were represented and at least that many are expected to attend this year's fair, including such well known names as Anheuser Busch, Boeing, Southwestern Bell and the United

Postal Service, among others.

Students are advised to bring plenty of copies of their resumes as well as any transcripts potential employers may be interested in.

Director of Career Services, Deborah Kettler, emphasized the personal side of the fair, describing it as "one opportunity you actually have to meet face to face with your employer."

The following day, March 6, Gateway is sponsoring a Teacher Recruiting Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building. The cost of attending this fair is \$5 with pre-registration (deadline is Thursday) in the Career Services Office or \$10 at the door.

The fair is not restricted to those

interested in teaching; instead it focuses on education, including teaching, administration and counseling. Seven districts are expected to attend, including Missouri, Illinois, Texas, Kentucky and others nationwide. All of the St. Louis districts will be represented.

Again, students are advised to have plenty of copies of their resumes, teaching certificates and other relevant materials. More information on either fair is available at the Career Services website:

www.umsl.edu/depts/career—under special events and activities. The site, updated frequently, lists attending employers and the qualities they are seeking in applicants. □

GHANA, from page 5

in the exchange program. In fact, UM-Columbia, Central Missouri State University and Truman State University have joined UM-St. Louis to diversify and offer a larger pool of resources to the program. One condition of the exchange program is that a professor must accompany the students to Ghana while teaching at the University of Ghana in Legon.

Education Administration graduate student, Danielle Davis will be

in the second group of students traveling to Africa. She expressed her excitement since this is the first time she will travel to Africa.

"I have always wanted to travel to Africa. The Missouri Africa Program and UM-St. Louis made it economically possible for me to do so," Davis said.

The exchange program has proved to be an invaluable educational resource for UM-St. Louis and its success supports the importance of travel in education.

"Travel is the most important teacher about culture and people," Holmes admits. □

OLYMPICS, from page 7

Team USA was soft, and played without passion. Richter was a sieve. There were constant defensive breakdowns. The list of problems is extensive.

Pouring salt into the wound is that Team USA didn't even have the dignity to lose gracefully. It seems that a couple members of Team USA took the loss especially hard and decided to trash three hotel rooms in the Olympic Village.

How stupid are these guys?

They are the highest profile team, from the highest profile country in these games and they act like two-year-olds throwing temper tantrums. It is bad enough to disgrace their country with their awful play, but to give the whole country a black eye is inexcusable.

These guys need to come down to earth. Sure they have no pride left. Sure they were embarrassed in every sense of the word. That doesn't give them the right to destroy a few hotel rooms.

Get real guys. Realistically, you are

MOTION, from page 1

constitution," Avery said. "Therefore, the copy used to fashion the proposed motion is invalid."

Avery said after the meeting that both constitutions were on file at the Office of Student Activities but no one noticed the discrepancy.

Hopkins said he thought it was wrong to suddenly discard the 1993 constitution.

"If you want to say that it's void, then everything from 1993 up until today essentially has no legitimacy," Hopkins said. "We need to go back and correct everything that was done by SGA because all of it was done under false pretenses."

Avery admitted that there were some "discrepancies" in SGA's constitution but said the problem was not important enough to affect SABC.

"I think our imperfections shouldn't necessarily affect the committee that's already been established," Avery said. "That was in October when it was established. This should have been brought out before now."

Hopkins said that there were too many irregularities in the selection process for the committee.

"It is obvious that it would be an

nothing but a bunch of grown up men getting paid a lot of money to play a kids game. It doesn't mean you get to act like kids.

Perhaps this show of immaturity and stupidity is a direct link to why Team USA played so poorly. Immature stupid teams do not win hockey games.

Team USA was so soft that the U.S. women's ice hockey team could have beaten them. At least they won gold.

The US has two years of self-doubt. Two years to figure out how it went wrong. Two years of wondering if 1996 was a fluke.

By all appearances in these Olympic games 1996 was a fluke. How could the same team be so good yet so bad in such a short span of time?

-Joe Harris

It is obvious that it would be an error on the assembly's part to make any decision as of right now.

-Sharone Hopkins
UPB president

error on the assembly's part to make any decision as of right now to keep SABC as it stands with all the confusion that's been present here today," Hopkins said.

Hopkins also criticized "misconceptions" about UPB and said he was unhappy about the way the board was being treated by the campus in general and *The Current* in particular. Hopkins said *The Current* had repeatedly "misquoted" and "lied" about him in editorials and articles regarding the success of UPB events and programming.

"I think the board is sick of it," Hopkins said. "I think I am very sick of it."

Doug Harrison, editor in chief of *The Current*, dismissed the accusations.

"It seems odd that the UPB president is just now claiming he was mis-

quoted or has been misrepresented since he's never once contacted us about such alleged errors," Harrison said. "It's understandable that he's frustrated with recent actions from the SABC, but blaming the board's problems on *The Current* is ridiculous and should be beneath the president of UPB."

Hopkins also said that some administrators "have a problem with the structure of UPB." Hopkins has previously stated that he felt SABC's decision to redirect funding was based in part on negative feelings toward him and racial animosity toward the board, which is predominantly African-American.

SABC member Tonya Reed said the committee was simply following its guidelines. She said the committee was not even aware UPB did not go to the workshops when they decided to make the rule.

"When we first started, before we even knew which organization did not go to the meetings, we had to decide what to do," Reed said. "The rule was, you did not give them any money so we decided to keep that rule."

Hopkins proposed an amendment to the resolution asking SGA to work with Student Activities to set up another workshop for organizations to attend. The amendment was defeated. The resolution was defeated 26-11. □

SUIT, from page 1

ture."

Herman encouraged students to take the issue to their state legislators.

"Do you want the University sneaking down in the middle of the night and changing the law at the last minute?" Herman said.

He also suggested that the SGA make stickers available for students to put on checks they write to the University stating that they are paying tuition under protest.

When some students in the assembly suggested that a victory over the UM system could ultimately raise taxes, Herman said it was "a bogus issue." He also

countered arguments that a win could be detrimental to the functioning of the University.

"I'm just demanding for the students what they've been forced to pay illegally," Herman said. "If there is a problem created, the problem's created by the curators, not the students."

Following the meeting, Sharone Hopkins, president of the University Program Board and also the Associated Black Collegians, said he had previously spoken to Herman and plans to become involved with the issue.

"We just want to make sure students are aware of their rights," Hopkins said.

He added that he has handed out informational packets and plans to speak on local radio stations about the topic. □

"IT MAY BE THAT HER WRENCHING PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE DONE MORE TO RAISE AWARENESS THAN ANY LEGAL OR POLITICAL DEBATES COULD."

- Nancy Gibbs, Senior Editor, TIME Magazine

When Love Hurts

IN
PERSON:

Donna
Ferrato

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LIFE IN HELL

ABE AND WILL'S GUIDE TO PARENTS

PART ONE

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LIKE DADDY!!

OTHER GROWNUPS WITHOUT KIDS SEE THIS AND GET JEALOUS AND THEY HAVE KIDS SO THEY CAN SAY, "LOOK! WE HAVE SLAVES TOO!"

I HAVE TO FEED THE CATS!

I HAVE TO FEED MY IGUANA AND EVEN CLEAN HIS BOWL AND TURN ON HIS NIGHTLIGHT! I ALSO HAVE TO FEED THE FISH! IT'S REALLY A MADHOUSE!!

THERE ARE MANY MANY MANY MANY MANY TYPES OF PARENTS: LAZYBONES, PASTY-FILLED, SLEEPY OLD WALRUS, SIR OR LADY GRUMPSALOT.

BAG OF TREATS.

THEY GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT.

PARENTS FORCE KIDS TO EAT SOME BREAKFAST, THEY THINK THEY SHOULD FEED THEM STUFF LIKE OATMEAL. THEY WANT KIDS TO BE "HEALTHY LITTLE ANGELS."

WE'D RATHER HAVE ICE CREAM OR FROSTED FLAKES, BUT "NO!"

"THAT'S TOO SUGARY."

PARENTS CAN REALLY EMBARRASS YOU IN FRONT OF YOUR FRIENDS. THEY SAY THINGS LIKE, "DID YOU WASH YOUR FACE THIS MORNING?" "DID YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH?" "OOH, LOOK AT ALL YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS!"

"Hi, Sweetie-Pie!"

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MOST PARENTS ARE VERY LAZY IN THE MORNING, AND WHEN YOU COME TO SNUGGLE WITH THEM AND TALK, THEY SAY, "GO DOWNSTAIRS!"

THAT'S SORTA LIKE YOU, DAD.

THEY DON'T LIKE IT WHEN WE YELL IN THE MORNING.

BUT IT'S TOO HARD TO WHISPER.

CHORES ARE JUST THINGS PARENTS MAKE YOU DO BECAUSE THEY LIKE TO HAVE KIDS SLAVE FOR THEM. WE HAVE TO WASH THE DISHES. THEY WANT US TO MASSAGE THEIR NECKS. THEY WANT US TO FEED THEM BREAKFAST IN BED ON FATHER'S AND MOTHER'S DAY.

IT'S CRUEL.

PARENTS CALL THEIR CHILDREN BAD NAMES LIKE HANDSOME, CUTE, PRECIOUS, ANGEL, HONEY, SWEETUMS, SNOOKUMS, HONEYBUNS, DELICIOUS, SCRAMPTIOUS, DARLING, LITTLE GENTLEMAN, BEAR CUB, AND MANY OTHERS TOO HORRIBLE TO SAY.

THEY ALSO CALL YOU BUMBY-BOO, BUT I LIKE THAT.

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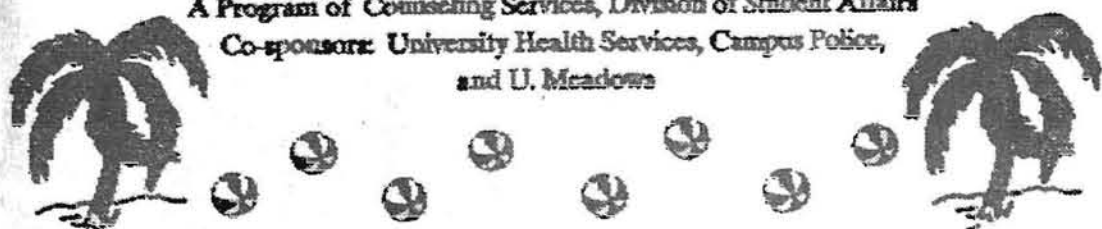
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CUTS, from page 1

benefits. If her contract is not renewed in August, she said she will not receive full benefits.

"We thought when we transferred (from Barnes School of Nursing) we would have security," Hertell said of the merger between the Barnes Hospital School of Nursing and UM-St. Louis in 1994. "I don't have to work, but I'd like to be the one to decide when I retire rather than being thrown out on my ear."

Hertell, a clinical assistant professor who has taught for 17 years and been a nurse for 45 years, supervises students' clinical work in the emergency room. Though the University is not required to staff an instructor to supervise ER clinicals, Hertell said their value to the program was important.

"Students get hands-on experience in the ER that they may never otherwise get, and they always say [ER clinicals] are one of their favorite parts of the program," Hertell said. "Whereas students may see three or four patients in a day on [regular rounds of a hospital], they can see as many 15 patients in the ER."

Hertell, who colleagues call "highly respected" in the BJC system, is not the only faculty member who could supervise ER clinicals. But her colleagues say the trust that ER staffs afford her makes her indispensable.

"She could walk on the floor of an ER with students any time," Drake said. "Other people could supervise those clinicals, but there is wide variety of experience and competence among faculty."

Durham said the decision as to which faculty members to cut was "agonizing" and unavoidable. He said the University would do all it could to make the transition as smooth as possible.

"We are providing the faculty whose contracts will not be renewed with several services," Durham said. "We're providing professional counseling, job placement and search assistance, and I've met with the vice president for human relations at BJC to see what help they can give us."

Durham insists that because the college's enrollment has "dramatically" declined since 1995, the reduction in non-regular, or clinical, faculty (those without Ph.Ds) will not impact the quality of the degree programs.

"The reduction in faculty matches a reduction in the number students, and some reduction (in enrollments) was purposeful," Durham said, calling recruitment prior to his arrival in August of 1997 "possibly overzealous." "But enrollment went below the anticipated faculty

load."

"A Transition Period"

In 1994, UM-St. Louis merged with the Barnes College of Nursing, originally operating from the Barnes Jewish Christian Hospital complex on Kingshighway.

"The nursing program (at UM-St. Louis) had about 250 students," Durham said. "Overnight 450 more showed up."

And they kept coming, until by 1996 there were almost a thousand students enrolled in the program. About 40 faculty members transferred to UM-St. Louis from what was known by them as the Kingshighway campus, according to Virginia Drake, who served as interim dean of undergraduate studies in the first year after the merger.

"BJC gave the faculty at Kingshighway a two-year leave of absence," Drake said. "That way, they could come back to the hospital if for some reason they didn't want to stay" in academe.

To accommodate the burgeoning enrollments, the college took on new faculty, bringing the total of full-time, tenure and non-regular faculty to 44 in 1997.

But this year, enrollments have dropped significantly, down to "about 750," paralleling a national trend, Durham said. Citing studies by the National League of Nurses and the American Association of College Nurses, Durham said enrollments in the college are in the "third year of a national decline."

But the college's enrollments are not the only number that is dropping. Since the merger with Barnes, the number of graduates from the program passing the required Missouri Board of Nurses professional examination has dropped: from 91.6 percent of graduates in 1993-94, to 85.8 percent in 1994-95, to 77.3 percent last year.

The Board of Nurses requires an 80 percent pass rate or better before it intervenes, according to Calvina Thomas, assistant director for education and licensure at the board.

"The program has never been on probation," Thomas said, referring to UM-St. Louis. "But if a program falls below 80 percent, we ask 'why did it happen' and 'what are doing to correct it.'" Schools that fall below the minimum must submit written explanations of possible reasons for the decline and articulate proposed changes to remedy the problem.

Durham said a number of related factors might have contributed to the decline, including admissions standards (which have been increased), faculty instruction and curriculum changes.

Durham convened an ad hoc committee to

research the falling passing rates. The committee's findings resulted in revised curriculum, which has been approved by the Missouri Board of Nurses and is awaiting University approval.

Durham said he's confident that once the college adjusts to the changes in national health care trends and implements its new curriculum, the program's test results will improve.

"Though 80 percent is the state requirement, it is not acceptable to me," Durham said. "Ours should be above 90 percent."

In the first quarter of this academic year, Thomas reported UM-St. Louis' scores to be 85 percent. Though she said the first quarter was no indication of the final rate of passing, it was a good sign.

"A Size that Fits"

Much of the college's current financial woes are tied directly to its dependency almost entirely upon tuition and educational fees. Unlike some departments or colleges on campus, only a few of the Barnes College's 44 faculty are paid for by "rate dollars," or fixed funds that are guaranteed from year to year through allocations from the legislature.

Because of this direct relationship between the fiscal well-being of the college and the size of enrollments, the college can be thrown into a financial tailspin in a single year of declining enrollments.

Durham said the college would experience an "almost \$600,000 deficit" in fiscal year 1998-99 if it did not cut the nine faculty. In the meantime, Durham said the college is trying to determine what is the best target enrollment for the college.

"We are not clear about where enrollment should be," Durham said. "We are currently in a strategic planning process to identify the ideal number."

Ideally, Durham said the college would level off somewhere above the current enrollment and somewhere below the 1,000 mark.

"I am prepared to accept smaller classes than risk the quality of the program," Durham said.

Durham said he hopes mission enhancement initiatives from the system will give the college more rate-dollar instructors. Until then, he says the college must make hard decisions to remain financially sound.

"These are serious budget issues."

"Faculty Concerns"

Just below the surface of these serious budget issues are other, more volatile concerns some faculty have about the college's integrity.

"You can't take 23 percent of something away and not expect it to have an effect," Virginia Drake said Wednesday, referring to the

percentage of existing faculty the cut represents.

"The Barnes faculty (from Kingshighway) was a close-knit group with a work ethic that surpasses anything I've seen."

Drake recalled the "unprecedented" rapidity with which the Barnes program gained accreditation. "The school passed the accreditation of the National League of Nurses and other groups in its first year. That's almost unheard of."

Drake and others said they are concerned about the long-term effects of declining enrollments and lower percentages of students who pass the state boards.

More than that, several faculty members cite recent renovations and new furniture purchases for the administrative offices in addition to the hiring of a new development officer as indications that administrators are not applying strict fiscal management in all areas.

Durham dismisses those allegations, saying the development officer "will generate revenue," and that the position was an "investment."

"Large deficits cannot be compensated for by small measures," Durham said, adding that purchases like new printers for some administrators helped make them "more productive and save time."

A bigger issue for faculty is associate dean Connie Koch, who declined repeated requests for an interview.

According to Drake, Hertell and others, "a large majority" of the faculty gave Koch a vote of no confidence in early August, shortly before Durham took over as dean of the college, replacing Shirley Martin.

Durham, who acknowledges only the "allegation of a so-called vote of non-confidence," said he has received several formal complaints from faculty about Koch's style of management.

"I have taken action by exploring the allegations," Durham said. "I have not chosen to take any further action on that basis. I have full faith in Dr. Koch's ability. Speaking generally, any new dean would be foolhardy to dismiss an associate dean who is well informed about the operation."

At least two of the nine faculty members whose contracts will not be renewed have said they have grievances pending against Koch.

Durham, who initially characterized the suggestion of grievances against Koch as "wholly inaccurate," did ultimately confirm knowledge of

one grievance against her.

"I believe I should know," Durham said.

Hertell said she is awaiting the ruling of system president Manuel Pacheco concerning a grievance she filed against Koch for allegedly changing a student's grade without Hertell's consent. Hertell said Koch first changed the student's grade from the F Hertell issued to DL (delayed), supervised the student's work over the following semester and ultimately changed the grade to a B. Hertell said she filed a grievance against Koch and that a committee of five faculty members unanimously sided with Hertell's decision to issue the F.

But Hertell said chancellor Blanche Touhill ultimately upheld Koch's actions and the B. According to Hertell, the chancellor reasoned that, if Hertell's F stood, the student would be forced to retake the course and pay tuition again if Hertell took her case to Pacheco in October.

Jim Steele, clinical professor of nursing whose contract will not be renewed, said he has a grievance against Koch for allegedly falsifying student evaluations of him.

Steele's wife, Linda, an associate professor of nursing who is not among the nine, said Wednesday she will reopen a grievance on two points against Koch, originally filed for Koch's alleged falsification of personnel records.

Durham repeated his support for Koch and maintained his position that he knew of only one grievance against her.

"They (faculty members) can say whatever they want about the grievances they say they've filed," Durham said.

"The Future"

In the immediate future, Durham will deal with the fallout of the non-renewals. In addition to ensuring that the faculty members who are being eliminated receive the services he described, Durham has also written letters to nursing students and plans to meet with them in open meetings Wednesday and Friday.

In the long term, Durham said he plans to address ways to both increase revenue and decrease costs, citing the "80 to 90 percent" of the college's budget devoted to faculty salaries. Though a reserve account has been tapped to offset the financial losses in recent years, Durham expects to use it up next year in addition to the faculty cuts. "We had an immediate need to reduce costs." □



Large deficits cannot be compensated for by small measures.

Jerry Durham dean College of Nursing

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